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NICAP AND THE CIA CONNECTION

Has the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), once the leading and most respected UFO organization in the world, been secretly controlled by the all-powerful Central Intelligence Agency since the group's founding in late 1956?

Following months of intensive investigation by Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), Inc., the answer is a tentative "yes."

It was done quietly. Neither former NICAP Director Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe nor the former assistant directors (Richard Hall and Gordon Lore, now UFOR president and editor) made the direct connection until it was too late. They were aware, however, that some sort of surveillance was being undertaken during the 1960s. It was obvious, on more than one occasion, that the NICAP headquarters office telephones had been tapped, particularly during discussions with Keyhoe of important UFO cases, and that Lore's phone in Bethesda, Md., was similarly "bugged."

According to CAUS, in the January, 1979, edition of its newsletter, *Just Cause*, "at least two CIA covert agents worked themselves into key positions" with NICAP at about the time of its founding in 1956. The first was "Count" Nicolas de Rochefort, of the CIA's Psychological Warfare Staff, who became the UFO group's vice chairman. The other was Bernard J.O. Carvalho, who became chairman of the membership subcommittee.

When Keyhoe assumed the reigns of leadership in January, 1957, he persuaded Vice Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, first director of the CIA, to join the NICAP board of governors. The admiral had been Keyhoe's classmate at the U.S. Naval Academy and admitted the CIA had been interested in UFOs since reports had attained nationwide attention in June, 1947.

By early 1962, Keyhoe was on the brink of forcing Congress to hold open hearings on UFOs and the Air Force's (AF) handling of the matter. He was relying on Hillenkoetter to criticize AF policy, but the former CIA director suddenly resigned from the NICAP board, leaving Keyhoe in the lurch. The Congressional effort collapsed.

The NICAP infiltration continued. In late 1959, Col. Joseph Bryan III (USAF-Ret.) asked Keyhoe if he could see some "really hot cases." Skeptical at first, Keyhoe was placated when Bryan publicly stated that UFOs are extraterrestrial and that the policy of officially withholding UFO information was "dangerous."

Bryan was the founder and first head of the CIA's Psychological Warfare Staff, but Keyhoe was apparently unaware of this. Bryan, who denied communicating with the CIA about NICAP, became the UFO group's chairman and, as such, shared responsibility for the firing of Keyhoe and Lore as NICAP's operating officers in late 1969.

A similar denial came from Karl Pflock, chairman of NICAP's Washington, D.C., subcommittee in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Pflock was a former briefing officer for the intelligence agency.

Enter G. Stuart Nixon, who joined the NICAP staff around 1966 and was instrumental in the ousting of Keyhoe and Lore. He met "with several past and present (then) CIA employees on a frequent basis" and claimed to have had many conversations with Bryan.

(Early on, Nixon told Lore that he hoped "nobody would be too upset by what I intend to accomplish at NICAP." Lore pressed him, but he clammed up. Later, he began downgrading certain potentially excellent UFO reports, especially the photographic cases for which he was responsible. He labeled as "hoax" numerous reports that looked good to the rest of the staff.

(In 1969, Nixon was against publication of a special UFO report Lore authored entitled *Strange Effects From UFOs*, which included as one of its main sections an analysis of occult cases. The report was well-documented and the occult cases given high marks by a

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special NICAP scientific panel, but Nixon disagreed, saying NICAP had no business getting into such a way-out, fringe area. Lore also knew Nixon had been seeing one or more members of the board.

(In late 1973, Lore asked Keyhoe if he thought Nixon was a CIA plant. Keyhoe's response: "No. He's not smart enough." During the same conversation, Keyhoe also told the former assistant director that "the biggest mistake I ever made was not firing Stuart Nixon").

Following the ouster of Keyhoe and Lore, Nixon was named executive director and Jack Acuff president. Acuff had been head of the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers, a group that had

been on the KGB's (Russian secret police) spy list, ostensibly because the society had many members who were photo analysts with the Department of Defense's intelligence units and with the CIA. Acuff began working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and met with KGB agents, according to CAUS.

"Since taking over NICAP," the CAUS newsletter stated, "Acuff has converted the organization from being a vocal and persistent critic of the government's UFO policies to being a rather 'passive recipient' of civilian UFO reports. The group's investigating network, the subcommittees, was disbanded shortly after Acuff took the job."

In the early 1970s, NICAP was operating on a budget of about \$50,000 annually. Acuff Associates, however, took around \$35,000 of this for "contracting services," and Acuff later indicated NICAP owed him approximately \$20,000. Paltry sums -- \$76 one year, \$20 the next -- went into "general research." NICAP and its once-respected newsletter had become mere shells of their former selves.

Last year, Acuff pulled a stunt that outraged many NICAP members and former members. He sold the organization's outdated mailing list to Samisdat, a fanatical, neo-Nazi group in Canada.

Meanwhile, Williard F. McIntyre, former photographic consultant to NICAP and friend of Nixon's, began telling ufologists that Acuff wanted to merge with Samisdat or sell the UFO group to them. This action caused some former NICAP employees and members to start the Ad-Hoc Committee to Preserve NICAP.

(Around 1968, Nixon almost jokingly told Lore that McIntyre had been on a "secret" mission to Vietnam. He had been shot down and spent several days on a raft. Lore asked Nixon then if McIntyre was with the CIA, but he just shrugged his shoulders and indicated his friend was involved in all sorts of unusual pursuits).

During this battle, McIntyre admitted "he was a former covert agent of the CIA." He also said Acuff had worked for the agency.

By September, 1978, Acuff wanted out of NICAP, "claiming the organization owed him a rather large sum of money." An ad-hoc committee member, Richard Hall, proposed a coalition with the Center for UFO Studies, the Mutual UFO Network, and the International Fortean Organization, but nothing came of it.

After Acuff's resignation last October, Hall made a move to be appointed his successor. Several board members backed him, but this, too, was unsuccessful.

Then several retired CIA officials were offered Acuff's job. One of them -- Alan N. Hall -- accepted. One of the leaders in this move was Charles Lombard, "a former CIA covert employee" and aid to Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), a NICAP board member.

(UFOR is indebted to David Branch, Pasadena, Calif., for supplying us with this information, as well as to CAUS, P.O. Box 4743, Arlington, Va. 22204).

UFO CONTACT: ENTITIES PHOTOGRAPHED IN PASADENA APARTMENT

For more than 27 years, Harrison E. Bailey has had direct or indirect contact with UFOs and their occupants. And, as the saying goes, the malady lingers on.